

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, TU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KORUTURK SPEAKS OUT ON VIOLENCE

REF: A) ANKARA 4886 B) ANKARA 4927

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING RECENT MAJOR INCIDENTS OF PARTISAN VIOLENCE AT GEREDE AND DIYARBAKIR AS WELL AS SEVERAL STUDENT CLASHES, PRESIDENT FAHRI KORUTURK SPOKE OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE IN A JUNE 25 SPEECH.CPKD SUMMARY.

1. IN ATMOSPHERE OF PARTISAN STRIFE AND MUTUAL RECRIMINATION EXEMPLIFIED BY THE RIOTS AT GEREDE ON JUNE 21 AND AT DIYARBAKIR ON JUNE 23 (REFTEL), INCIDENTS OF STUDENT VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS ALMOST DAILY. ON JUNE 20 "COMMANDOES" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTEDLY ATTACKED STUDENTS OF ANKARA'S MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL

UNIVERSITY AT A BUS STOP. THE SAME DAY A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN KUTAHYA LEFT ONE LEFTIST STUDENT IN A COMA. ON JUNE 22 THERE WAS A CLASH OF EXTREME LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST STUDENTS AT THE ANKARA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION. ON JUNE 23 STUDENTS OF ANKARA UNIVERSITY'S POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY CLASHED WITH POLICE WHEN POLICE ATTEMPTED TO APPREHEND A STUDENT SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN AN EARLIER INCIDENT. THE NEXT DAY STUDENTS OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY AGAIN CLASHED WITH POLICE. FOUR INJURIES OCCURRED AND 150 STUDENTS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. ON JUNE 25 DIYARBAKIR'S MEDICAL FACULTY AND TRABZON'S BLACK SEA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY BOTH WITNESSED STUDENT DISTURBANCES DURING FINAL EXAMINATION.

2. JUNE 25 PRESIDENT KORUTURK CHOSE THE OCCASION OF CEREMONIES ESTABLISHING THE BEYTEPE CAMPUS OF ANKARA'S HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY TO PLEA FOR FAIR AND CONSTRUCTIVE SOCIAL CRITICISM IN A DEMOCRATIC CONTEXT: "IF IN VOICING THE SHORTCOMINGS, DEFECTS AND COMPLAINTS OF OUR COMMUNITY WE OMIT OUR GAINS FROM THE FIFTY YEARS OF THE REPUBLIC AND ATTEMPT TO SHOW OUR COUNTRY AS THE WORLD'S DARKEST AND MOST DESPAIRING, WE SHALL HAVE DONE OURSELVES AN INJUSTICE."

3. ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT "NONE OF US TODAY COMPLAINS OR CAN COMPLAIN OF THOSE CRITICISMS WHICH TAKE PLACE WITHIN LEGAL BOUNDS," KORUTURK WARNED: "HISTORY SHOWS THAT CERTAIN ENDS MAY BE TEMPORARILY ATTAINED BY FORCE AND VIOLENCE, BUT ONE CANNOT ATTAIN FREEDOM BY SUCH MEANS. FREEDOM IS ALWAYS TAKEN AWAY FIRST FORM THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO RESORT TO FORCE AND VIOLENCE AND THEN FROM THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY."

4. REMARKING THAT A PEACEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE SCHOOL YEAR AT HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY ADMINISTRATION AND STUDENT UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION, KORUTURK CONCLUDED: "SECURITY OF EDUCATION MUST DEFINITELY BE ACHIEVED IN (ALL) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION."

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